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The Hongkong Telegraph

(ESTABLISHED 1861)

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February 16, 1918. Temperature 6 a.m. 58° 2 p.m. 59°
Humidity 59

February 16, 1917. Temperature 6 a.m. 60° 2 p.m. 71°
Humidity 87

WEATHER FORECAST
FAIR.

Barometer 30.09

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1918.

大拜禮 號六十月二英港香

REUTERS' TELEGRAMS.

THE LABOUR CORPS.

Missionaries as Officers and Chaplains.

London, February 12.
Hoping to encourage recruiting for the Labour Corps, the Government has asked some of the Church Missionary Society's missionaries to raise double Companies from among their Christians and to accompany them as officers and chaplains. Accordingly, three of the Society's missionaries are now in charge of Indians working behind the lines and four in charge of Chinese, while eight are serving with the Labour Corps in Africa.

EARLIER TELEGRAMS.

LORD CURZON ON THE WAR SITUATION.

London, February 13.
In the House of Lords, in the course of the debate on the Address, Lord Curzon said the Imperial War Conference marked an important step in the constitutional development of the Empire. Geographical conditions prevented frequent meetings, but the prosecution of the war, the supply of men, peace, and the after the war conditions were matters concerning which we should gain by deliberating with our overseas fellow subjects. He paid a tribute to the type of Dominion and Indian soldiers to be seen daily in the street. The success of the Palestine expedition was regarded all over the world as the sacred symbol of coming victory. (Cheers.) All hoped that Palestine would never be allowed to revert to the Turks. The Arabs had assisted us to inflict heavy defeats on the enemy.

All must sympathize with Rumania. Her position was not due to failure of the Western Allies but to her geographical isolation since she had been deserted by Russia. In France our position was one of expectancy but the Allies had men to meet the onslaught, munitions equal to the enemy's and our moral was never higher. (Cheers.) The Versailles Council justified the most sanguine expectations. It was inevitable that the military representatives at Versailles should be invested with greater power as time went on. They had to deal efficiently and promptly with a situation which did not always permit of reference to distant Governments. The suspicions levelled against the Council were without foundation. He expected as regards military dispositions its executive functions would not be modified.

THE WESTERN FRONT.

London, February 12.
A French communique reports reciprocal artillery activity in Champagne, on the right bank of the Meuse and in the Vosges. French airmen brought down four German aeroplanes and dropped 8,000 kilograms of bombs on the enemy's depots and railway stations, notably on the railway station of Metz-sablon, where fire broke out.

EMPLOYEES' QUARTERS.

Companies' Right to Keep Strangers Out.

At the Police Court this morning, Mr. J. R. Wood gave his decision in the case in which Chinese were charged with being found on the premises of the Dairy Farm Company. At a previous hearing a number of men were charged, and his Worship raised the question as to whether the Ordinance which makes it an offence for a stranger to be found in the servant quarters of a house could be applied to the premises of a Company, such as in the present case, and subsequently Mr. W. E. L. Shenton appeared and strongly contended that the Ordinance was applicable to persons who were found on Company premises. His Worship then dismissed all the men, except one who admitted that he was there without permission and reserved his decision on this until to-day. His Worship now said he found that Limited Companies were entitled to use the Ordinance to keep strangers out of the quarters provided for their employees. He fined the defendant \$1.

Peak Gamblers.

A case of gambling at the Peak was before Mr. J. R. Wood at the Police Court this morning. Thirteen men being charged with playing ngau pai in the servant's quarters of the house in the occupation of Captain James. It was stated that at about 4 p.m. yesterday the Police made a raid and found all the men gambling. A fine of \$3 each was inflicted.

GERMAN FEARS ON BELGIAN COAST.

Larger North Sea Minefield.

Amsterdam, Nov. 16.—The Germans evidently are about to extend their minefield in the North Sea in order to prevent British naval movements in support of any attempted landing. The *Vaderland* learns that the Germans will shortly bring their forbidden region nearer the Dutch coast. When the ruthless submarine war was announced last February the Germans said they would allow the Dutch boats to fish within 20 miles from the coast. This distance is now to be reduced to four or seven miles. Against this the small channel which in the north leads to the so-called fishing water and by which Dutch ships go to Scandinavia and America will be considerably enlarged. If this is a gain for Dutch shipping and the fishing industry, the reduction of the free navigation along the west coast is a new and great inconvenience which fishermen especially will feel, not only because the fishing ground is again restricted, but also because the danger is increased that fishing vessels may stray beyond their narrow free water into the forbidden region, with fatal results should they encounter submarine mines.

The *Vaderland* supposes that the new German measure is connected with the possibility of the British Fleet co-operating in the Flanders offensive. "We can, indeed, assume (says the journal) that our Government has protested against this new restriction of the freedom of the sea, as it did against the previous restrictions from German or British, but it will be obliged, as before, to submit."

THE EARTHQUAKE.

A Terrible Visitation at Swatow.

Accounts now to hand show that the earthquake shocks of Wednesday and Thursday were far more seriously felt in Swatow than in Hongkong. The tremors were particularly violent, and immense damage was done to native and foreign buildings. Hundreds of houses collapsed, while it is calculated that from 800 to 1,000 Chinese lost their lives, many hundreds of others being injured. The ground was rent by big fissures in many places, while water and steam are said to have gushed forth from many of these crevices.

Standard Oil Report.
News received from the representatives of the Standard Oil Company goes to confirm that the shocks felt were terrible and have caused numerous deaths and untold damage. A letter, hurriedly written in the stress of circumstances, says that a very severe shock was felt about 2.10 p.m. and lasted about a minute. Houses fell and there was a scene of confusion never equalled in the port. To make matters worse, there were several other shocks which completed the damage already done. When the first shock was felt, thousands of people left their houses and watched their homes ruined by a succession of tremors. Europeans also fled into open spaces and remained there afraid to again enter their premises, the majority of which it not already reared to the ground showed very clearly that they were unfit for further habitation. The shock which did the most damage, however, was one which shook the town shortly after four o'clock on Thursday morning. This was exceptionally severe, and the earth shook to such an extent that buildings fell like houses built of cards. Even substantial premises suffered, many of them falling. There is no doubt that many of the deaths were caused by this second big shock. Many people had overcome their fears after the first shock and returned to their houses, and it is to be feared that many of these poor unfortunates are numbered among the victims.

At the time this letter was written, there were close on five hundred deaths, but in addition it is stated that there were numerous people injured and the hospitals are full to overflowing. The writer says that the Standard Oil offices at Swatow, though they have not actually collapsed, are far from stable, but other buildings have gone completely and there will be an unprecedented demand for building contractors when things are straightened out a little more. Business is totally suspended, and the town is in ruins. The work is going on of removing families and goods from houses, and dead bodies are being continually discovered. Writing with regard to the Standard Oil Company's installation the writer says that the tanks and pipes are badly strained but are still intact. Tiles from the roofs, and portions of the roof itself have, however, been riddled. The new superintendent's residence is a total wreck. Further news is promised as soon as possible as to the extent of the damage done and the total number of deaths, so far as is ascertainable, though it will, of course, be some considerable time before order can ensue from the chaos in which the town has been thrown. From this letter and others which have been received in the Colony it will be seen that Swatow has suffered indescribable damage, and it is feared that the death-roll will be much heavier than was at first supposed.

UNCLAIMED TELEGRAMS.

Eastern Extension, Australasia & China Telegraph Co.

Baker, Y.M.C.A., from Rangoon Sub.
Clark Circus, from Haiphong
Danica, from Saigon.
Fruin Kremlin, from Tientsin.
Gibson Engineer, from Sydney.
Monsha Singh, from San Francisco.
Orsine, Hongkong Hotel, from Saigon.
Vacher, from Mandin.
J. K. GIBSON, Superintendent.
Hongkong, Feb. 7, 1918.

The Great Northern Telegraph Company, Ltd.

Itakura, Matsubara Hotel, from Kobe.
Sykora o/o Moutrie, from Yokohama.
Callinet, o/o Banker Co., Wenz Road, from Shanghai.
Kwonghinglong, from Yokohama.
Kiankee, from Amoy.
Kwongshampo, from Kobe.
T. KRING, Act. Superintendent.
Hongkong, Feb. 15, 1918.

Absentee with Peace Pamphlets.

Arthur Leslie Quilliam, who was arrested by the Salford police on the day of the North Salford election and charged under the Defence of the Realm Act with having in his possession large quantities of peace pamphlets which he intended to distribute, was yesterday at Salford charged with being a military absentee, and was handed over to an escort. The Home Office withdrew the other charge.

Another Account.

A letter received from Swatow yesterday by Mr. F. C. Butcher, of Messrs. Bradley and Co., states that the earthquake was the worst known for twenty or thirty years. From the letter we take these extracts:—"The first shock was awful—buildings shattered, and plaster fell everywhere; we fled to the open and found people running helter-skelter and everything falling. The damage to property is great, but how great we do not know as yet. There is a considerable loss of life, and casualties are very heavy. On the Kakohoch side—or the foreign settlement—all the properties are badly damaged. In some buildings the cracks appear to be very serious. . . . The earthquake travelled from north to south. I do not know how long the first serious quake lasted. It is impossible to guess, but it is put down at 40 to 50 seconds, which is a long time. Many foreigners slept on board the steamers in the harbour last night, and thousands of Chinese camped out in the open. All sorts of escapes are reported. The Custom House is wrecked and evacuated, and its front and back collapsed. . . . The roads everywhere are cracked badly. Nobody here knows enough to say whether a building is safe to occupy or not. Such an earthquake as experienced yesterday has not been known here of over forty years. It is still rumbling. The B and S are keeping the situation here to night for foreigners to sleep on board, as many houses are not habitable on the Kakohoch side." Further reports of damage done will be given in later issues to-day.

FIRST-AID ANTISEPTIC.

French Soldiers Furnished with Outfits.

Miracles of healing have played as important a part in this war as miracles of heroism, and the large percentage of recoveries from wounds shows that the technique of the army surgeon has progressed as rapidly as his that of the artillery. Perhaps the most important advance is in the prevention and killing of infection in wounds. Such rather complicated processes as that devised by Drs. Carrel and Dakin have been used extensively in army hospitals and have been duly noticed. But the stricken soldier lying in "No Man's Land" or hidden in a shell-crater, may now keep his wound clean until the stretcher bearers find him. French soldiers are being furnished with an antiseptic compound which can be applied very easily. *La Nature* tells us. It is a mixture of powdered chloride of lime and powdered boric acid. Each soldier now carries a small flask of this mixture and a glass insufflator, or blower, to project the powder upon the wound aseptically. This can be done, we are told, without causing pain, even when the nerves have been actually laid bare, the only sensation being one of heat. Since the powder dissolves very slowly, its antiseptic action is prolonged for several hours, without the necessity of renewing the dressing of the wound. If desired, a little calcium chloride to check bleeding can be added. This method is said to be cheaper and simpler than the iodine treatment which has been in use.

A new and effective method of using iodine in hospital or field treatment of infected wounds was thus described by Argus Lumiere at a recent meeting of the French Academy of Sciences:—"Iodine of starch, in which the content of iodine corresponds to one in fifty thousand, suffices, after twenty-four hours of contact at a heat of 37° C. (98.6° F.) to kill streptococcus and pyococcus germs and the coil bacillus. The streptococcus does not resist liquids containing only one-tenth as much of the active element."

"Experimental infected wounds made on animals were treated with iodine of starch, either in the form of powder or in a gelatinous paste. The wounds thus treated were very rapidly disinfected and were free of microbes in general at the third dressing. The iodine of starch can also be used in irrigations, the liquid containing, in one litre of boiling water, 25 grams of soluble starch and 50 cubic centimeters of a 1 per cent solution of iodinated hydriodate. The cicatrization of war-wounds thus treated appeared to be effected with peculiar rapidity."

Light Reading.

The February issue of the *Pacific Review*, now on sale, is an extremely bright and snappy number. There is a deal of matter relating to the B. C. election, including stories and some "tips," while the competition takes the form of "spotting" the winning stables in five events which are specified. "Aunt Dorothy's" effusion and a very clever skit on serial cinema films, entitled "Boy Jim," are most amusing features. The *Gazette* has now completely changed in style of make-up and presents a far more attractive appearance than ever before.

HISTORY MADE IN BERLIN.

London War Council in 1913.

The *Hamburger Nachrichten*, a prominent newspaper, has reproduced a report of an alleged British Crown Council concerning a speedy war against Germany. This report, which the paper says that it has received from a thoroughly trustworthy source, states that a secret meeting of a limited number of Privy Counsellors took place in July, 1913, at the Downing-street residence of the Prime Minister, Mr. Asquith. Most of those were invited only shortly before, and were informed verbally. It was simultaneously impressed on them that the sitting must remain secret, and that nothing was to appear in the Press. The invited Privy Counsellors were to know nothing of it. King George attended the sitting. About 40 to 45 persons were present, including Lord Lansdowne and some others who stood very close personally to King Edward.

Lord Morley opened the sitting with a few words, after which Mr. Asquith announced that the King would personally attend, and that Lord Kitchener would make a statement concerning the military relations of the Powers on the European Continent. Some time afterwards the King appeared, accompanied by Lord Knollys, Lord Kitchener, and the latter's staff.

Lord Kitchener delivered a very carefully worked-out statement culminating in the assertion that, even if Italy did not intervene in the war on the side of her Allies, Germany and her Allies would have such a preponderance over Russia and France that her victory would be inevitable.

Sir Edward Grey said that the war personally was peace-loving, but would be strongly influenced from another side and would be compelled from dynastic considerations, probably sooner than was thought, to make war against Austria, whose influence in the Balkans was increasing, while Russia's was declining. Sir Edward Grey spoke very fully about France, declaring that her desire to regain the ravished provinces was completely justified. To-day England could count on the help of France and Russia if Germany's efforts to force us off the seas became intolerable and compelled us to defend our possessions. How might the situation be in 20 years?

After some observations by Mr. Churchill, Lord Morley asked whether Sir Edward Grey's observations meant that England had the decision of war and peace, and ought to decide for war because the Romanoff family would like to continue ruling autocratically and the French wanted to regain two provinces of whose inhabitants only a small percentage were of French nationality. Thereupon Sir Edward Grey, very embarrassed and angry, replied that Lord Morley had completely misunderstood him. If England drew the sword, it would only be to protect her own interest; but it was a dangerous policy to leave Germany's adversaries alone in the hour of danger and to wait.

Lord Kitchener, hereupon spoke again, saying that the time was past when England could allow herself to stand aside and let the Continental Powers fight out their battles alone. It would be suicide if we did not participate in a European war at the beginning. Lord Morley asked if it would not be better to make it perfectly clear on the one hand to Germany that England would, in all circumstances stand by France's side in the event of an attack on France, and on the other hand

to give France to understand that England would not tolerate in any case a war of aggression against Germany with the object of regaining Alsace and Lorraine. Sir Edward Grey replied that this was the surest way, practically, the matter was otherwise. England must in all circumstances retain a free hand.

Lord Morley replied that Sir Edward Grey's arguments had not convinced him.

An interval then took place and the sitting was resumed an hour later.

Lord Kitchener again spoke, ending with the words:—

"Germany is envious of our rich inheritance. There is no other way but to fight. It is never good to postpone the inevitable."

Replying to Lord Morley, Sir Edward Grey said that he held once more that to make efforts to reach an understanding with Germany concerning naval armaments was useless. Moreover, the First Lord of the Admiralty would make some announcements from which they would see that it was not always advisable still further to postpone a war which must come some time.

Mr. Churchill made a nearly hour-long statement, declaring that it appeared to him better not to wait till naval warfare had possibly undergone a complete revolution.

After Lord Kitchener's first speech an incident occurred, significant in the light of later events. When Lord Kitchener, in concluding his review, summed up the German and Austrian forces, Lord Lansdowne said that Lord Kitchener had not mentioned Italy, although it was assumed that Italy was allied to Germany and Austria.

Lord Kitchener did not reply, but Sir Edward Grey said that his Majesty's Government had ground to assume that in case of conflict Italy would remain neutral.

Lord Lansdowne again asked whether this assumption was a mere supposition or had tangible grounds.

Sir Edward Grey replied after some hesitation:—

"I cannot answer this question." The sitting then closed with an address from the King enjoining upon those present strict silence; and adding that on the advice of the Cabinet only a limited number of Privy Counsellors had been summoned to the sitting, in order better to preserve the secret. The sitting lasted till 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

This rift of German imagination appears to be a clumsy attempt to counter the authentic disclosures that have been made in the *Times* with regard to the Potsdam War Council in July, 1914.

DON'T FORGET.

TO-DAY
Victoria Theatre—9.15 p.m.
Bijou Theatre—9.15 p.m.
New Hongkong Cinema—9.15 p.m.

TO-MORROW.
Victoria Regatta.
Victoria Theatre—9.15 p.m.
Bijou Theatre—9.15 p.m.
New Hongkong Cinema—9.15 p.m.

Monday, February 18.
St. George's Society.—Social general meeting at City Hall; 5.30 p.m.

Constitutional Reform Association.—Annual general meeting at City Hall; 8.45 p.m.
Thursday, February 21.
Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown Co.—Shareholders meeting; noon.

Saturday, February 23.
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Annual meeting; noon.

Monday, Feb. 25.
Race Meeting.—1st Day.
Tuesday, Feb. 26.
Race Meeting.—2nd Day.
Wednesday, Feb. 27.
Race Meeting.—3rd Day.

NOTICES.

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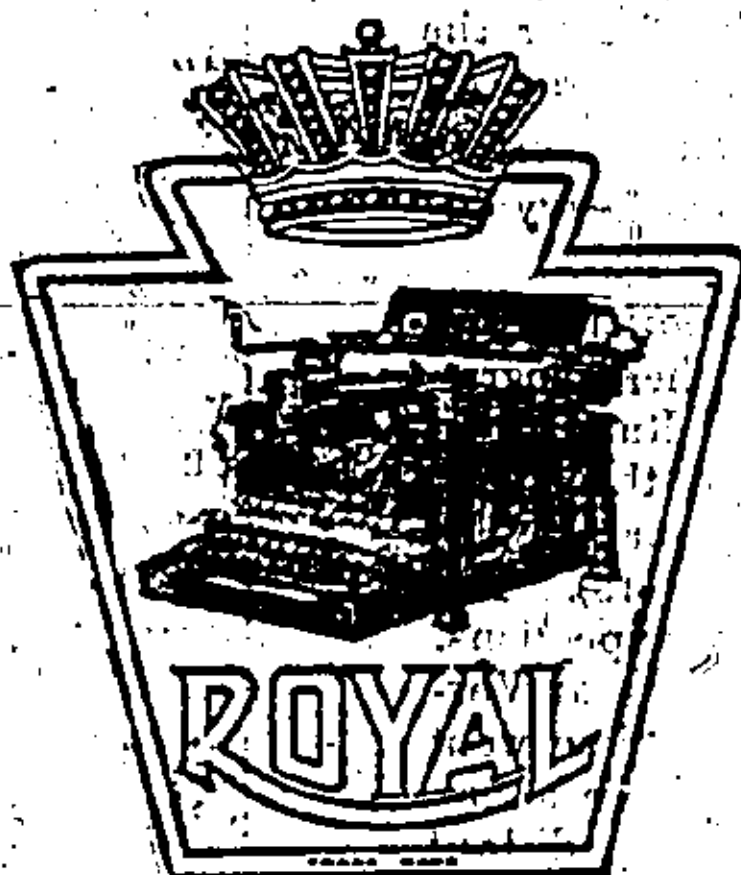
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OTHER AFFECTIONS OF THE JOINTS AND
TENDONS. THE NEW FRENCH METHOD OF
THERAPY.The French Academy in 1891, sold for
600 guineas (the highest price of the day) the portrait of Philip, second Earl of Hardwicke, in blue dress with gold-lacings, which from an opening bid of 60 guineas fell at 850 guineas to Mr. A. Tooth, with Messrs. Agnew as the underbidders. A fine group by a neglected artist, R. M. Payne, of a nobleman and his two brothers, exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1891, sold for 600 guineas (the highest price of the day) the portrait of Philip, second Earl of Hardwicke, in blue dress with gold-lacings, which from an opening bid of 60 guineas fell at 850 guineas to Mr. A. Tooth, with Messrs. Agnew as the underbidders. A fine group by a neglected artist, R. M. Payne, of a nobleman and his two brothers, exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1891, sold for 600 guineas (the highest price of the day) the portrait of Philip, second Earl of Hardwicke, in blue dress with gold-lacings, which from an opening bid of 60 guineas fell at 850 guineas to Mr. A. Tooth, with Messrs. Agnew as the underbidders.

FRENCH LESSONS.

C. MOUSSON,

15, Morrison Hill Road.

GENERAL NEWS.

Imports of Cycles Prohibited.

A Royal Proclamation has been made prohibiting the import of the following goods into the United Kingdom without a licence:—Abrasive wheels, binder or reaper twine, brass rod and brass wire, cycles other than motorcycles, electric motors, electrical motors over one-half horse power, electric hand lamps and torches, magnetos, measuring tapes and rules of all descriptions, including verniers, micro-meters, pens, penholders, pencils, and all other stationery of which the importation is not already prohibited, and vegetables in brine.

The Importance of the Peanut.

The lowly peanut is coming to its own again in the United Kingdom. From feeding elephants in the parks and children at the circus, it is taking its rightful place as an essential factor in providing for the wants of the nation. This gift of the new world to mankind, of which the annual American crop is 4,000,000 or 5,000,000 bushels, has many virtues that are not generally appreciated. Besides food for man and beast, it provides oil for cooking and butter for making hardenable. Its own cake is better than any other cake for fattening cattle, and its vines are far more useful than alfalfa for a similar purpose. It is now given official standing by Prof. Charles McCarthy at the Federal Food Administration, who calls it "the wonder crop of the nation," and who raises fairly, 4,000,000 acres over the 800,000 acres covered by its cloverlike leaves and yellow blossoms in the fields of Georgia and the Carolinas.

Unnecessary Servants.

Mr. Duncan Miller has asked the Minister of National Service whether his attention has been called to the number of advertisements for servants in households of one, two, or three persons, who even to 10 indoor servants are already kept, and whether he proposes to limit the number of indoor servants employed in each household. Mr. Beck, in a written reply, states that the subject has engaged the attention of the Minister of National Service for some time, and he has already taken opportunities of pointing out how essential it is, in the national interest, that no person should employ more servants than are absolutely necessary. The Minister trusts that the awakened consciences of those who have in this respect failed to appreciate their duty will provide an immediate and sufficient remedy. If not, he hopes to be in a position to state definitely the steps which will be taken in the general statement on manpower which will be made by him shortly.

Good Prices For Portraits.

Family and other portraits, and drawings, the property of Lady Lucas, which had been removed from West Park, Bedfordshire, formed Messrs. Christie's first picture sale of the season, the total amounting to £11,758 8s. 6d. for 132 lots, a large amount having regard to the no very interesting character of most of the pictures. Apparently not all the portraits which formerly hung at West Park were included in the sale. The fine Romney portrait of Lady Grantham was recently added to an American collection. The highest price of the day was paid for Gainsborough's portrait of Philip, second Earl of Hardwicke, in blue dress with gold-lacings, which from an opening bid of 60 guineas fell at 850 guineas to Mr. A. Tooth, with Messrs. Agnew as the underbidders. A fine group by a neglected artist, R. M. Payne, of a nobleman and his two brothers, exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1891, sold for 600 guineas (the highest price of the day) the portrait of Philip, second Earl of Hardwicke, in blue dress with gold-lacings, which from an opening bid of 60 guineas fell at 850 guineas to Mr. A. Tooth, with Messrs. Agnew as the underbidders.

GENERAL NEWS.

Chinese Schools.

According to official figures, there are in China 38,699 public schools, accommodating 3,895,000 pupils. Dissatisfied with the small number of institutions, the Minister of Education has planned for the increase of at least 1,000 middle and primary schools in the course of this year.

Japanese Workers for France.

Five hundred Japanese workmen will go to France as munition workers, and it is planned to send later an additional force of 1,500 for the same purpose, according to a Japanese paper, which reports pending negotiations between the French Government and a Japanese emigration company. It is said that the first party of workmen are to be used as the operators, and the plan for taking the Japanese to the Western front munition plants was inaugurated last October. The men have not been sent because an agreement on the wages to be paid cannot be reached, the French being willing to pay about Yen 2 a day, but the Japanese company has not accepted the figure.

Controller of Horse Transport.

An announcement by the Board of Trade says that in consequence of the increasing demands of the Army and of Agriculture on the horse stock of the country, traders, cartage contractors, and others find it difficult to obtain the horses required for essential work. The position is made worse by petrol shortage, and by the lack of means for repossessing motor vehicles. It is proposed, therefore, to regulate the sale, purchase, distribution, and working of all horses, other than Army and agricultural horses, and generally to exercise control over such horse stock. The President of the Board of Trade has appointed Mr. R. H. Salbie, at present chairman of the Committee on the Utilisation and Feeding of Horses, to be Controller of Horse Transport.

A War-time Luncheon.

The King and Queen entertained the members of the American Mission at luncheon at Buckingham Palace recently. With the King and Queen were Prince Albert and Princess Mary. The arrangements were of the simplest and most informal character, and no change was made at the lunch from the strict method of rationing constantly practised by the King and Queen and imposed upon the entire Court and Household. There was neither music nor special floral decoration. After the meal, which was served in the Household dining room, the members of the mission dined separately with their Majesties for some time. One of the members of the mission declared afterwards that a loyal and general following of the Royal example would probably do away with all suggestion of the necessity for compulsory rationing; and added that he and his colleagues were gratified to find that no exception to the general rule had been made on that occasion.

Malaya to London in Five Days.

In Ipoh, on January 31, Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, one of the pioneers of automobilism and aviation, interviewed by a representative of the Times of Malaya, said that he had been sent by the Air Ministry to Canada and other places to stimulate recruiting and interest in aircraft work there, but that his official position was officer for inspection of Mechanical Transport Services for the Government of India. A great many of the war planes, he said, would be used for passenger and mail services throughout the Empire after the war, and the first great routes to be organized would be those overland. The journey from London to India, which, before the war, took at least 14 to 15 days by boat, and 40 to 50 days by air, could be reduced to four and seven days respectively. In regard to Malaya, an air service for mails and passengers would be of incalculable value. Malaya would be about 6,500 miles from London, which, at a flying rate of 1,200 miles per day, would bring her within five days of London.

NOTICES.

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GENERAL NEWS.

Austrians Released.

Another detachment of Austrian soldiers of Italian extraction and sympathies, who have been released by the Russian authorities from internment in order that they may serve with the Italian Army, arrived at Tientsin Railway Station from Siberia on the 18th ult. They numbered about 300, making the total who have already been sent down about 375.

British Women in the Philippines.

The small British community at Calocan, in the Philippine Islands, has forwarded to the Overseas Club a supply of comfort bags for wounded soldiers in which they may keep their personal belongings. The women of this little community are determined to take their share in the war, and a weekly meeting is held at which all kinds of work for the Red Cross is undertaken.

Store For Loyalists' Weapons.

A notice was published in the Dublin papers recently from the military authorities stating that, in view of the alarm that has been caused in the minds of loyal people in Dublin by a recent raid for arms in the city by evil-disposed persons, rifles, revolvers, and ammunition will be received for safe keeping at the Ordnance Store, Island Bridge, Dublin. Receipts for arms and ammunition so deposited will be given in all cases, and applications for the return of the arms will receive immediate attention.

"Edible Earth" as a War Food.

The *Bilzburger Tageblatt* announces a new, or rather a rediscovered, "food," by which, it says, Germany will be able to hold out until the enemy gives up the struggle in despair. This "food" is described under the heading "Edible Earth, a Timely Hint." It is called "fossil flour" or "infusorial earth." The journal says:—This fossil flour is to be found in large layers in Sweden, Lapland, and Finland while France, England, and occupied parts of Greece are tattered by nature in a much more picturesque fashion. Fossil flour fre-

quently occurs in Germany, especially in the Luneburger Heide, in the neighbourhood of Berlin, near Königsberg in Prussia, in Hesse and elsewhere. It is also to be found in Bohemia, where there are great deposits.

The West Indian Contingent.

Brigadier-General Sir William Manning, Governor of Jamaica, who recently paid a visit to the British West Indies Regiment at the front, attended the half-yearly meeting of the West Indian Contingent Committee at the Colonial Office. He said that general officers, officers commanding, and company officers all testified to the excellent behaviour of the men under fire, and added that the West Indians were in no way affected by heavy casualties. The men were in excellent spirits, and got on admirably with their British comrades. Sir Eustace Im Thurn, the chairman, emphasised the fact that the regiment was now serving on practically every front, and that it had been in the firing line in the recent successful operations in Palestine. Sir Frederick Hodgson mentioned that only recently it had won a Military Cross, 12 Military Medals, and two Royal Humane Society Medals.

The Lord Mayor and Mr. Hogge, speaking at Chiswick, at a meeting of the National Federation of Discharged Soldiers, Mr. Pringle, M.P., referred to the meeting at the Mansion House in connection with the "Comrades of the Great War," movement, when one of several discharged men interrupted the proceedings. He said that they did not object to the new organisation, but they did object to its trying to capture the old organisation by bribing and occupying its officials. When the interrupters were ejected the remark was made by the Lord Mayor that they could now see where German gold was used, and Lord Bessborough said, "Now, the Bolos have gone." The Lord Mayor at that time did not know that the interrupters were connected with the federation. He had sent Mr. Hogge an simple apology, and expressed his regret that he should have uttered anything that, in any way, which reflected on the patriotism of the organization.

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WANTED.—FURNISHED HOUSE, 6 Rooms, Garden Road level preferred, must have own Tennis Court. Apply with full particulars to Box 1357 of Hongkong Telegraph.

FOOD TO FIGHT ON.

Strange Diet Used by Troops.

The fighting ability of an Army depends primarily on its food. The human body cannot create energy, but only transforms it; and it is the energy bottled up in such prosaic stuff as beef and beans that wins our battles. In an article on "The Inner Man of an Army," contributed to the *Scientific American* (New York, December 1), Mr. L. Lotian tells us that the food essentials of an army are four—meat, bread, sugar, and tea, stated in the order of importance, it being understood that salt are included in "meat" and all cereals, legumes, etc., in "bread." The "sugar" item includes all sugar-containing fruits, and under "tea" are counted coffee, chocolate, roots and national beverages, writes Mr. Lotian.

"All armies possess emergency rations. None of them is entirely up to the mark; and the problem is still to find an emergency ration which shall be passably satisfactory. For instance, the American article is lacking in proteins and fats; and the chocolate tablets which accompany it are an indifferent substitute.

"There are three different paroled maize meal packets and three chocolates. The former article is but a revival of the paroled maize-meal of the American Indians, on which they could exist for days when hunting or on the war-path. But even this hardy race finally abandoned it for the better known pemmican—dried chopped meat with grains mixed in, to which no straight cereal product can compare as a sustaining food. The German Army pea-sausage, or *Erbswurst*, has been much overpraised by those whose familiarity with it is scant. It is about as unsatisfactory a concentrated ration as any extant, and is actually inedible when unspiced, being of a nauseating, bitterish, and raw flavour. It would seem that an emergency ration should above all things be edible as it is to provide for the most remote contingency in which cooking facilities are lacking.

The finest known combination of sustaining and heating qualities among meat foods is a form called by the French *boulet rams* (chain-shot). This is also used by the Belgians and the Germans. It is a winter food and is never issued for summer campaigning. The string is so formed that each ball constitutes a single substantial ration. To quote further:—

"There are more than a dozen varieties of compressed teas used by the Russian commissary, appearing in various forms—bar, slab, tablet, disc, ball, etc. One is a high-grade whole-leaf tea compressed into oblong very little space and preserves well.

A three-pound slab snugly fits the coat pocket. The meaning of this will be amply demonstrated by an attempt to stow five pounds of loose tea into the coat-pocket without bulging.

"The compressed rice-macaroni of oriental forces is an instant rice—place it in water, bring it to a boil, and it is ready to serve without further formalities. "The oat-bread-in-sausage-link form is still made and used by some of the North British troops, and is indeed a most sustaining bread-stuff. It contains some fat seasoning and the links resemble those of pork sausages.

"Another remarkable army food is the compressed fig coffee of the Central Powers, in use over a century, and with the peculiar advantage that it may either be utilised for food as it is or converted by infusion into a coffee-like drink, with the inevitable gummy flavour. The much-winkled, smoke-dried pears found in the same armies are another product made by the ton. These are used by the troops as a combined nutriment and corrective.

"The Swiss Army, which now and then figures in the daily news as fighting hard to maintain its neutrality, has but one notable food-product—the white chocolate. This is made entirely of cocoa-butter and sugar, the brown residue of the bean after removal of the stearin being excluded. The moulded chocolate cake has the smooth, glossy, ivory-white appearance of a billiard-ball. A less sweet form of the white chocolate has a dried cream incorporated in it, and is of sugar. Both types are recognised as of food value superior to that of the ordinary brown chocolate; the brown part is much over-rated, in this respect being comparable to beef extract, calves' foot jelly, and other supposed delicacies, popularly imagined to be highly nutritious.

"An Italian army chocolate is in sausage-length form, put up in ordinary casing, while its plum puff goes into a beef membrane. This is a more sustaining plum pudding than the more familiar one of British tradition. The Italian 'spotted dog' is made with one of the heavy and dark Italian wines in lieu of water and fat put meats in place of ordinary shortening.

"There is, to repeat, no entirely satisfactory emergency ration in use by any army, and perhaps there never will be. The nearest approach thereto is the simplest—just the unsealed, sun-dried, paper-thin meat sheets of some of the Latin-American forces. This is always dry and clean to handle, can be eaten as it is, and folds up compactly like brown paper. The thick article of the shipping supply trades is a very different and very inferior one.

"The Asiatic soldiery have a similar sun-dried and unsealed meat sheeting, in smaller size, shaved from the round of goat, sheep, and pig, while certain African tribes depend upon a similar product of the deer, and the buffalo. In every case food-value is high."

NOTICES.

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NOTICES.

HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Ordinary Yearly Meeting of the Shareholders in this Corporation will be held at the CITY HALL, Hongkong, on SATURDAY the 23rd day of February, 1918, at Noon, for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Court of Directors together with a Statement of Accounts for the year ending the 31st December, 1917.

The Register of Shares of the Corporation will be CLOSED from MONDAY, the 11th February, to SATURDAY the 23rd February, 1918, (both days inclusive), during which period no transfer of shares can be registered.

By Order of the Court of Directors.
N. J. STABB,
Chief Manager.
Hongkong, 5th January, 1918.

NOTICES.

HONGKONG, CANTON AND MACAO STEAMBOAT CO., LTD.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE NINETEENTH ORDINARY MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS in the Company will be held at the Office of the Company, Hotel Manama, on TUESDAY, the 19th February, 1918, at 12 o'clock NOON, for the purpose of receiving a Report of the Directors, together with a Statement of Accounts, declaring a Dividend and electing Directors and Auditors.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 4th to 19th February, 1918, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board of Directors.
JOHN ARNOLD,
Acting Secretary.
Hongkong, 15th January, 1918.

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THE UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY OF CANTON, LTD.
Honorary Secretaries & Treasurers.

Hongkong, 15th January, 1917.

NOTICE.

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UNION TRADING CO., Agents.
Queen's Buildings,
Hongkong, 1st February, 1918.

EARTHQUAKES

"There appears lately to have been a lot of loose hair found floating around in different parts of the Colony."

"WATSON RESORCIN HAIR WASH."

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Telephone 16.

Correspondents are requested to observe the rule which requires them to forward their names and addresses with communications addressed to the Editor, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of their bona fides. All communications intended for publication should be addressed to the Editor. Business correspondence should be sent to the Manager.

The rates of Subscription to the "Hongkong Telegraph" will be as follows:—Daily issue—\$36 per annum. Weekly issue—\$13 per annum.

The rates per quarter and per month, proportional. Subscriptions for any period less than one month will be charged as for a full month.

The daily issue is delivered free when the addressee is accessible to messenger. Peak subscribers can have their copies delivered at their residences without any extra charge. One copy sent by post an additional \$1.80 per quarter is charged for postage.

The postage on the weekly issue to any part of the world is \$1.00 per quarter.

Single Copies, Daily, ten pence. Weekly, twenty-five cents (for cash only).

Advertisements and Subscriptions which are not ordered for a fixed period will be continued until countermanded. (Payable in Advance.)

The "Hongkong Telegraph" is now on sale at, and will be delivered to subscribers by, the Dairy Farm Company, Ltd., Shamshing, Canton, who have been appointed our agents there. By Order, "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH."

BIRTH.

SUTTON.—At Yokohama, on the 14th inst., to Mrs. A. L. Sutton (of Manila), a son.

The Hongkong Telegraph.

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1917.

THE QUESTION OF AN INDEMNITY.

Every now and again comments filter through from enemy sources which show the astounding stupidity of the Germans in regard to the war settlement and their utter failure to grasp the most elementary facts so far as the future is concerned. Such must be the recent speech of the Finance Minister in the Bavarian Upper Chamber be described. In it he spoke of the "appalling" growth of Bavarian expenditure and declared that it was self-evident that Germany must have an indemnity from the enemy. The desire may be self-evident; indeed, it is. But why, merely because Bavaria's growing expenditure is necessitating more taxation, the Entente should be expected to foot the bill (and that is what the statement amounts to when boiled down) nobody but a German could possibly see.

We have spoken of this anticipation of an indemnity as a piece of stupidity—a wilful blindness to future probabilities. There is, of course, one other standpoint from which it can be viewed, and that is as a sop of comfort to the enemy taxpayer. The German militarists have managed to hide a good deal from the people of the Fatherland, but there are some things which are bound to be known from actual experience. One of them is the steady growth in taxation, and it is quite like the German leaders, when asking for more money, to hold up before the people a dazzling vision of the great indemnities which are to be forced from the Allies when peace is declared. If the German taxpayer is so simple-minded as to be deceived by rubbish of this kind, he is an even bigger fool than we had already taken him for. The exaction of an indemnity depends first of all on military victory, which is the very thing which Germany will never attain. The Bavarian Finance Minister must himself have had some little doubts on this point, since he admitted that the securing of the much-coveted indemnity depended on "military and political developments." It certainly does, and one of those developments is involved in the question as to who will win the war. Happily, the Allies have no misgivings on that point. They have entered the conflict with an unquenchable determination to come out on top. They will not cease fighting till that result is reached. Then will be the time to talk of indemnities—indemnities from Germany, not to her.

One wonders for what Germany expects to be indemnified. Possibly for having caused the war, over-run neutral territory, slaughtered innocent people and attempted to substitute Right by Might. We can think of little else that she has done to merit fame. But these things hardly entitle her to expect payment of her expenses by the Entente peoples. They do, however, supply a very good reason why the Allies should look for full reparation for the devastation accomplished by the enemy borders and the terrible suffering and misery which Prussian ambition has brought to the world. There are those who, when talking of a peace by settlement, would be quite content if Germany agreed to stop fighting, and to shake hands and forget. But that is not the sort of peace which the Entente Governments are determined upon. More than a cessation of hostilities, even more than guarantees for the future, are required. Germany has to be punished for her savagery and her wickedness. And, unless we are sadly mistaken, part of the punishment will be the exaction of financial recompense. There will be an indemnity to face, to be sure. But the indemnity will have to come from Germany, and not from the sources anticipated by the Bavarian Finance Minister.

Poor Russia!

The exit of Russia, as disclosed in one of yesterday's telegrams, is pathetic to a degree. Above all else, it reveals a most absolute misconception of the situation by those into whose hands the fate of the country has fallen. The peace negotiations have ended because the terms submitted "by German capitalist, supported by the silent co-operation of the Anglo-French bourgeoisie," are not acceptable. Therefore, while not yielding to the German conditions (which will, we imagine, be imposed none the less) the greater part of the Russian Army is being demobilised. We can quite well understand that Germany's annexationist terms are not to the liking of the Russians, but to suggest that "the Anglo-French bourgeoisie" has anything to do with the matter is the very moonshine. Such beliefs only show to what depths of ignorant prejudice extremists can descend. What has Russia gained by all the trouble of the negotiations with the enemy? Nothing but disgrace and a name for impracticability. And now she will be practically at the mercy of an unscrupulous neighbour. It is a sad state of affairs, but the Allies at any rate now know definitely where they stand in relation to the misguided Russians.

Careless Contractors.

We suppose that since the time building operations were first commenced in the Colony there has been a good deal of more or less carelessness on the part of contractors' workmen when carrying out blasting operations. Though the police have been actively engaged in endeavouring to impress this fraternity that a proper respect must be observed for life and limb, cases where due precautions are not taken to provide against accident are far too frequent to be pleasant. During the past few weeks an increasingly large number of those responsible for blasting operations have appeared in the Police Court and have been fined various sums to teach them that they cannot fire off their charges without seeing that the way is clear. But we venture to think the punishment meted out is not nearly as salutary as it should be if the practice is to be completely stamped out. Only last week one of these men was before the Magistrate for this offence, when it was proved conclusively that he gave no warning whatsoever that he was about to fire a charge, with the result that people in the street, and children playing in a school recreation ground within the area, narrowly escaped serious injury. Such negligence as this is nothing short of criminal, and the only fit penalty for those who will not observe the common rules of safety is one of imprisonment.

Dog Licences.

We are pleased to see that the police have taken steps very early on in the New Year to ensure that no keeper of a dog has escaped the payment of the customary licence-money. That attention has first of all been directed to Cause Road and Robinson Road levels gives or still further pleasure. Judging by the nightly pandemonium made by dogs in this district, it would almost seem that the keeping of dogs was one of the conditions of a tenancy, and the poor householder who does not keep one has to pay in disturbed rest far more than he feels he is justly called upon to do. We know of some houses on the Cause Road, and Robinson Road too, that keep not only one, two, or even three dogs, but five and six, all of whom are allowed sweet liberty during the night, with the result that they not only scare away any would-be housebreaker but deny rest to residents near by. The keeping of so many animals makes one wonder whether some restriction of numbers should not be a matter with which the Government might deal. If the cost of a licence were increased according to the number of dogs kept, it might deter inconsiderate dog-owners from keeping such large kennels, and thus free the neighbourhood from what is undoubtedly a serious nuisance. Dogs have a rightful place in house-guarding; but when they exceed that and destroy the ordinary peacefulness of a residential district, public welfare demands that a curb should be placed on the numbers.

DAY BY DAY.

THERE ARE NO PANGS SO SICKENING AS THE SATIETIES OF PLEASURE.—Ruskin.

To-morrow's Anniversary. To-morrow is the second anniversary of the wrecking of two Zepplins off the Danish coast.

The Dollar. The opening rate of the dollar on demand to-day was 2s. 11.5/8d.

War Work. The War Charities Store Sub-Committee will issue wool on Tuesday, at the City Hall, from 10 to noon, to all working parties making application in the usual way.

Kailan Output. The total output of the Kailan Mining Administration's mines for the week ending February 2, amounted to 60,314 tons and the sales during the period to 47,693 tons.

Western Medicine. The name of Lam Shing-kap, Shaukiwan Chinese Public Dispensary, has been added to the list of medical practitioners trained in Western medical sciences who are authorised to grant death certificates.

The Colony's Health.

During last week there were five cases of diphtheria (all Chinese), four of enteric fever (one British and the rest Chinese) and four of small-pox (all Chinese). Three of diphtheria and one of enteric fever terminated fatally.

Sanitary Appointments.

H. E. the Governor has made the following appointments:—Inspector W. Davitt to be a Sanitary Inspector for Kowloon City. Police Sergeant M. Easner to be a Sanitary Inspector for Aberdeen. Acting Lance-Sergeant G. Soot to be a Sanitary Inspector for Stanley.

The Peak Hotel.

A meeting of the Licensing Board is to be held in the Council Chamber on Friday, the 22nd inst., at 12.30 p.m., for the purpose of considering an application by Flora Kae, Father Blair for a hotel keeper's adjacent licence for the Peak Hotel under the Liquors Consolidation Ordinance, 1911.

Indo-China S. N. Shares.

Says the L. & C. Express of November 28:—Indo-China Steam Navigation Company's shares, which have been a marked feature amongst shipping shares for some weeks, have continued their upward movement. The quotation has more than doubled in the last three months, and is attributed to rumours of a further shipping amalgamation.

Provisional Protection.

H. E. the Governor has granted to Marian Ombemski, Herbert Charles Reker and Messrs. Butterfield and Swire as Agents for the Taikoo Sugar Refining Company, Limited, provisional protection for a period of nine months from the 7th day of February, 1917, for an invention for the preparation or manufacture of a vegetable decolouring carbon called "Albit," pending the grant of Letters Patent.

Practical Sympathy.

We learn from the Police Reserve Gazette that the fund opened at the Hongkong Club by officers of the Police Reserve for the benefit of the dependents of those killed in the Gresson Street affray totalled \$9,332.50, in addition to which a fund at the Police Reserve Headquarters reached \$4,588.50, the Japanese community sent in \$854, and a sum of \$362 was received from the Kowloon Duck Recreation Club. With the Chinese community's subscription of \$12,200, the grand total of these funds is \$27,437.

House-Breaking.

Before Mr. J. R. Wood, at the Police Court this morning, a Chinese was charged with breaking into a house in Eastern Street. It was stated by complainant that he heard a noise going on, and when he was thoroughly aroused, he went to investigate. As he got near the room where the noise was coming from, defendant and another man with clothing and other articles in their possession rushed down the stairs. The other man got away, but defendant was arrested. His Worship sent defendant to prison for three months.

GRESSON STREET OUTRAGE.

One of the Robbers Charged.

Before Mr. J. R. Wood, at the Police Court this morning, one of the robbers connected with the Gresson Street affray was charged with the murder of Inspector Mortimer O'Sullivan, Sergeant Clarke, and the Chinese Detective Kwong Sang.

A second charge of the murder of Chan Leung, at Yumati on December 23, was also preferred against him. The case was remanded for a week.

It is more than likely that when the evidence is taken some new light will be thrown on the several tragic occurrences which have been disturbing the Colony of late.

PRICE OF SILVER.

A Suggestion Regarding China.

In the House of Commons on November 27, Mr. Gresham Stewart asked Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether an arrangement has been made between the British Government and the Government of the United States whereby the price of silver has been fixed for a period of one year; and, if so, whether, with a view to preventing violent oscillations in exchange during the period of trade reconstruction after the war, he will endeavour to prolong the duration of the agreement for a further period of five years, and, if possible, to extend its scope by inviting France and China to join in supporting such an arrangement.

Mr. Bonar Law:—Discussions respecting the conclusion of an arrangement are now proceeding, but no agreement has yet been reached. I note the suggestion made by my Hon. Friend in the last part of the question, but I doubt if it would be practicable.

IN MEMORIAM.

The following verses to the memory of the late Inspector O'Sullivan and Sergeant Clarke appear in the current issue of the Police Reserve Gazette:—

When we sing the story of the heroes in the trenches, Sing of deeds of valour where the ocean winds blow free, When we bring to memory each sacrifice that wrenched Heart-strings of the roughest souls that be—

Let us light the torch that never Lethe's water quencher, To the twin gone from us, from our Island in the Sea! Tell their tale with heads uncovered, reverently and gentle, Pledge their deathless fame within the halls of Memory! Not in lists and annals of the warfare Occidental, Ye: their names on goodly scroll shall be;

Costly was the ransom paid to maddened Oriental For the peace and safety of our Island in the Sea!

Far from where the ravings that the heart of Reason shuns are,

Far from where the battle-impes are shrieking angry glees,

(Yet the Mother Country, watching, knows that where her sons are

Bloom the flowers of Love and Loyalty.)

Far from where the blooming and the storming of the guns are,

Here they died as heroes, on our Island in the Sea.

Not by empty titles that proclaim a lordly station

Shall their sacrifice be known in records of the Free,

By the greatest name of all we speak our admiration

When we say in proud humility—

These were Men, who proved their lives an honour to their nation,

Proved their deaths an honour to our Island in the Sea!

1893.

HONGKONG TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO.

(Compiled from the "Hongkong Telegraph" files for the week ending February 23, 1893.)

The Dollar.

February 16.—The rate of the dollar on demand to-day is 2/8.

The Fatshan Ashore.

February 20.—The Fatshan got ashore last Wednesday morning in a thick fog off the Salt Commissioner's wharf near Whampoa. As daylight broke, shots were heard in the neighbourhood, and the scores of sampans crowding around the steamer scudded away in all directions. Soon two boats, each containing six men armed with revolvers, etc., were seen in flight, followed by wild shots from the salt-men's rifles. Two mandarin junks intercepted their retreat, and a few executions probably followed.

Quarry Bay Athletics.

February 20.—The two recreation clubs of East Point and Taikoo Sugar Works combined forces and held a most successful athletic meeting on Friday last (China New Year Day) at Quarry Bay. The weather was heavy and threatening in the morning, with a little rain, but the afternoon was fair, though cold. There was a big muster of spectators, and the ladies' tent was very well filled, while, for the first time (probably in the history of the Far East, the Ewo and Taikoo flags were seen flying proudly over the same building. The ladies and children were admirably entertained, having quite a magnificent programme of athletic exercises themselves, besides ample and excellent refreshments and most courteous attentions from the hospitable Taikoo Boys.

Messrs. Moke.

February 21.—The nickname of a new firm in Tientsin is "Ass, Donkey and Co.," otherwise "Messrs. Moke."

Tigers!

February 21.—The number of tigers prowling about Chinese Kowloon is increasing steadily. Two are said to have been seen on Sunday at Tin Shung, or some such place, and to have eaten half a bullock.

Descriptive Writing.

February 23.—What speculations might not the following, from the Snail's Canton romance in re the opening of the Shamesan Theatre, call up?—"It was a pretty sight indeed to watch the couples as they crossed the stage through the wooded scenery and became lost from view." If the grammar were not so shaky, this sentence would be almost poetical, but as it is 'tis only pathetic. Picture the wasted figure sliding through solid tree trunks till the coast be clear; glimpses through a crack; the "company lost from view"; the kitchen reached; the leg of mutton clutched; the cook's alarm; the escape; the hair; rum and mutton; bliss; and—oblivion!

Racetrack Grand Stand.

February 23.—On the opening day of the Races, shortly after twelve o'clock, the Stewards having escorted their guests to the Grand Stand, the brief opening ceremony took place. The Hon. O. P. Chater, in a few well-chosen words, expressed the pleasure and honour conferred on the Jockey Club by his Excellency and Lady Robinson in coming to open the new Grand Stand to-day. The building (on which \$25,000 had been spent) was not quite completed, but very little remained to be done, and he begged to present His Excellency with the key and ask him to open the gate. The Governor thanked Mr. Chater and the Steward for their invitation, which Lady Robinson and himself had had great pleasure in accepting. The Grand Stand was a splendid building, one of the finest of its kind he had ever seen, and well worthy of this beautiful Happy Valley. He heartily congratulated the Stewards, and the Club, having such a fine building. His Excellency then unlocked the gate at the head of the steps, and entered, followed by most of the ladies and gentlemen present, to inspect the building, and admire the decorations, which were simply gorgeous.

TO-DAY'S MISCELLANY.

As he has reminded us in his "Recollections," Lord Morley's early years were spent at Blackburn. Lancashire therefore claims him as her own, but it almost looks as though quite a good case might be made out for Yorkshire. The Morleys come from Mytholmroyd, the straggling village between Todmorden and Halifax, which most of us know as the end of a fine walk across the Blackstone Edge moors. In any local business directory of the early part of last century one may find the names of Lord Morley's great-uncle and grandfather—Henry and Jonathan Morley of Mytholmroyd, cotton manufacturers and makers of woollen cards. They belonged to a stage of industry which was passing away, a survival from pre-factory days; for they gave out web and warp to the handloom weavers of the surrounding countryside, and took the finished goods, when returned, to the Piece Hall at Halifax.

Jonathan Morley, Lord Morley's grandfather, died in 1840, and is buried in front of the Wesleyan Chapel at Mytholmroyd. The family were staunch Wesleyans. Their names occur in the list of subscribers to the chapel building fund in 1806, and almost to the end of the century some member of it was connected with the chapel. One of Lord Morley's cousins was "leading singer" for over twenty years. He died in 1859, but his wife lived on till 1897, and she used to tell how, as boys, in the 1840's John Morley and his brother often came over from Blackburn to see their relatives at Mytholmroyd. They wore boots when they came, but brought clogs to put on while playing in the country lanes. A few years ago there were still old people who could remember "young Jonathan going to North Shields to learn to be a doctor." "Young Jonathan" was Lord Morley's father, who was at North Shields for a time before he removed to Blackburn.

The recent announcement that "foolscap paper for official correspondence will no longer be issued" is a cheering evidence of national economy. It is, however, somewhat belated, as the size of official paper has for some time past been considerably reduced. Indeed, a certain Government department, in a fit of war-time economy, has managed to send out important communications on sheets the size of which would have done credit to Mr. Balfour's once famous "half-sheet of newspaper" formula. The use of the term "foolscap" as applied to a certain size of writing paper is said to have arisen from the fact that the fool, or dunce's, conical-shaped cap was used as a watermark. Its "country of origin" was probably Germany; at any rate, German examples of the watermark dating from 1479 were shown at the Cotton Exhibition in 1877. The credit for introducing its use into this country has been claimed for Sir John Spielmann, who had paper mills at Dartford towards the close of the sixteenth century, but the claim is strongly contested in the "New English Dictionary," which asserts that there is no evidence of the validity of this contention.

Herr Otto von Dandl, who has succeeded Count Hertling as Bavarian Minister President, is the son of a Bavarian official and a native of Straubing in Lower Bavaria. His career as a law student at Munich University was a brilliant one, and in 1897, shortly after embarking on his profession, he was given a post as the Bavarian Ministry of Justice. From that time his promotion was rapid, and he enjoyed the full confidence of the Prince Regent, who, in 1916, appointed him a member of the Privy Council. In 1912 that body was dissolved by the Prince Regent, who appointed in its place a Cabinet, of which Herr von Dandl was made the head, with the title and rank of a Staatsrat. His work in that capacity met with wide recognition, and in 1915 King Ludwig conferred on him the title of Excellency.

RACING NOTES.

Some Comments on To-day's Gallops.

With the Races only a little more than a week ahead, it was only to be expected that a very large crowd should assemble at Happy Valley this morning to witness the usual Saturday gallops, the crowd being the largest yet seen this season. Among those present were His Excellency the Governor (Sir Henry May) and we also noticed Mr. Satterly, the owner of the "Sand" stable, who arrived in the Colony from Manila yesterday. Also on the course and piloted two of the Dahlias in their work.

The course was an exceedingly fast one, the hurdles being down, thus permitting of actual racing conditions. The rail side stands are now in position, and the enclosure is becoming quite gay with flowers.

As will be seen by the times given below, ponies are becoming more fast and are beginning to make fine finishes. Dealing with the Derby entrants, one of the best things of the morning was the gallop of Wild Cat, which did a mile and a half in 3 min. 25 2/5 secs. Tytam Chief went a mile and a quarter in 2 min. 49 secs., covering the last quarter in 32 4/5 secs. The much-favored Salamander was the only pony to gallop on the inside course, his full time for the mile and a half being 3 min. 40 secs., with 32 secs. for the last quarter. Gentle Cat showed up well in his mile and a half, but John Peel's New Year and Xmas Day went a mile and a quarter and a half respectively in times much slower than those given above. Bantam Dahlia, with Gida riding, went a mile and a half in 3 min. 28 4/5 secs., Conquest Dahlia being even slower for the distance, with 3 min. 30 secs. Windor Dahlia made a good short gallop for an old pony, but far more comment was caused by the performance of the sub., Bubbles, which did a mile in 2 min. 14 2/5 secs. In fact, there were a number of subscription griffins which made good times, Black Cat, Ebony Pearl, both the Mosses, Over There, Green Cloth, Second Violin and not forgetting showing that they have excellent chances. A perusal of the times below will reveal that on present form the Races this year are going to be as interesting and open as they have been for some years. All the times are, with the sole exception of Salamander, taken on the outside course.

Derby Griffins.
 Lucky-ann. Mile.—35; 1 9 3/5; 1 4 1/5; 2 15.
 Tytam Chief. Mile and a quarter.—33; 18; 1 42; 2 10 1/5; 2 49.
 Unique Dahlia. Mile.—35; 2 49; 1 12; 1 47 1/5; 2 24 1/5.
 New Year. Mile and a quarter.—36 2/5; 1 12; 1 48 2/5; 2 24; 2 57.
 Korand. Mile and a half.—40; 1 18; 1 55; 2 31; 3 6; 3 42.
 Wild Cat. Mile and a half.—38; 1 11; 1 45; 2 17 3/5; 2 51 2/5; 3 25 2/5.
 Charch Moss. Mile and a half.—38 2/5; 1 13 1/5; 1 47 2/5; 2 21 1/5; 2 58; 3 31.
 Andrew. Last mile and quarter.—39; 1 17; 1 54; 2 29; 3 00.
 Bookend. Mile and a half.—39 1/5; 1 15; 1 49; 2 23; 2 55 1/5; 3 29.
 Domino. Mile and a half.—39; 1 17 2/5; 1 53; 2 28 2/5; 3 2 1/5; 3 35 1/5.
 Persian Cat and Siamese Cat. Mile and a half.—43 2/5; 1 18 2/5; 1 54; 2 29 2/5; 3 2; 3 35 1/5.
 Xmas Day. Mile and a half.—44; 1 21; 1 53 2/5; 2 32 3/5; 3 8; 3 41 2/5.
 Bantam Dahlia. Mile and a half.—38 1/5; 1 13 1/5; 1 12 3/5; 1 47; 2 21; 2 54 4/5; 3 28 4/5.
 Reeling Chief. Mile and a quarter.—37; 1 13 4/5; 1 48 1/5; 2 22; 2 55.
 Conquest Dahlia. Mile and a half.—36; 1 10 2/5; 1 43 3/5; 2 17 2/5; 2 53; 3 20.
 Salamander. Mile and a half.—40 2/5; 1 18; 1 53 3/5; 2 31; 3 8; 3 40.
 Gentle Cat. Mile and a half.—42; 1 20; 1 57; 2 34 3/5; 3 8 2/5; 3 29.
 Maybe. Mile and a quarter.—34 1/5; 1 9; 1 43 3/5; 2 17; 2 49 4/5.
 Old Ponies.
 Australian Chief. Mile.—42 3/5; 1 21; 1 57; 2 30.

Windor Dahlia. Three quarters.—33 2/5; 1 52 2/5; 1 37.
 Coronet Dahlia. Three quarters.—30; 18; 1 40 1/5.
 Tittlemouse. Last mile.—38; 1 12 3/5; 1 48; 2 22.
 Star of Doom. Last mile and a quarter.—42 2/5; 1 20 2/5; 1 58 2/5; 2 30 3/5; 3 3 2/5.
 Spr. Mile and a quarter.—36; 1 5 3/5; 1 41; 2 15 2/5; 2 48.
 Royaleand. Mile and a half.—39 4/5; 1 20; 2 12 2/5; 2 39 3/5; 3 15 2/5; 3 45 1/5.
 Dandy Dahlia. Mile.—39; 1 15; 1 50; 2 23.
 Merry Sand. Mile.—37; 1 11; 1 45; 2 17 3/5.
 Perfection Dahlia. Mile and a quarter.—38; 1 13; 1 49; 2 23; 2 58 1/5.
 Arizona. Mile.—38; 1 12; 1 45; 2 17.
 Essex Chief. Three quarters.—35 2/5; 1 12; 1 44 1/5.
 Sandy. Mile.—37; 1 49 2/5; 2 20.
 Maloo Chief. Mile and a quarter.—33 2/5; 1 7; 1 42; 2 16 3/5; 2 51.
 Glorious Pearl. Last half.—38; 1 9 1/5.
 Attraction Dahlia. Mile.—35; 4/5; 1 13; 1 46 3/5; 2 18.
 King Dick. Last three quarters.—37; 1 12 3/5; 1 49 1/5.
 Anticipation. Last mile and a half.—39 1/5; 1 15; 1 51; 2 57 1/5; 3 31.
 Kelgan Chief. Mile and a quarter.—36; 1 13 4/5; 1 48 1/5; 2 22; 2 55.
 Fairlight. Mile and a half.—45; 1 24; 2 2; 2 39; 3 14 2/5; 3 46 2/5.
 Adventure. Mile and three quarters.—42; 1 20 1/5; 1 56 4/5; 2 31 4/5; 3 7; 3 41 1/5; 4 15.
 Brownmouse. Mile and a quarter.—44; 1 20; 1 54; 2 27 2/5; 3 2 1/5.

Subscription Griffins.
 Bubbles. Mile.—35; 1 9 3/5; 1 43 1/5; 2 14 2/5.
 Tabby Cat. Mile and a quarter.—37 3/5; 1 13 3/5; 1 49 1/5; 2 23 1/5; 2 56 2/5.
 Morning Glory and Ole Bill. Mile.—37; 1 13 4/5; 1 48 1/5; 2 22.
 Black Cat. Mile and a quarter.—36; 1 13; 1 49; 2 22; 2 53 4/5.
 Ebony Pearl. Three quarters.—33; 1 5; 1 39.
 Meadow Mouse. Mile and a half.—43; 1 21; 1 54; 2 28; 3 3 1/5; 3 43 2/5.
 Sam-and. Mile and a half.—40; 1 18; 1 55; 2 31; 3 6; 3 42.
 Doubtful. Last mile and a quarter.—35 3/5; 1 10 4/5; 1 46 1/5; 2 21 1/5; 2 58.
 Balcary. Last mile and a quarter.—35 3/5; 1 10 4/5; 1 46 1/5; 2 21 1/5; 2 58.
 Xmaslight. Mile and a half.—38 2/5; 1 13 1/5; 1 47 2/5; 2 21 1/5; 2 58; 3 31.
 Dividend. Mile.—33; 1 6; 1 40; 2 15.
 King Tom. Mile.—38; 1 12; 1 45; 2 17.
 White Chalk and Rufus. Three quarters.—34 3/5; 1 9 2/5; 1 45.
 Substar Dahlia. (Vida) Three quarters.—35 1/5; 1 10 1/5; 1 43.
 Stanley Chief. Three quarters.—36 2/5; 1 12; 1 44 1/5.
 Haggis. Last mile and a half.—39; 1 15; 1 51; 2 26 2/5; 3 1; 3 34.
 Shatin Chief. Mile and a quarter.—33 2/5; 1 7; 1 42; 2 16 3/5; 2 53.
 Peekahill and Over There. Mile.—35; 1 10 1/5; 1 45; 2 17; (Over There), and 2 18 1/5 (Peekahill).
 White Cat. Mile.—33; 1 6; 1 40; 2 15.
 Rockmouse. Mile and a half.—41 2/5; 1 16 3/5; 1 50 1/5; 2 25 2/5; 3 00 2/5; 3 32 2/5.
 Green Cloth. Mile.—38 2/5; 1 13 1/5; 1 47; 2 19.
 Biplane. Last three quarters.—37; 1 12 3/5; 1 49 1/5.
 Herod and Nevada. Mile and a half.—41; 1 23; 2 00; 2 38; 3 12; 3 47 1/5.
 Marne. Mile and a half.—45 1/5; 1 23 2/5; 2 00; 2 35; 3 6 1/5; 3 41.
 Second Violin. Mile and a half.—41 1/5; 1 18; 1 54; 2 28; 3 3; 3 34 2/5.
 King Jim. Mile.—36; 1 13 1/5; 1 47 2/5; 2 20.
 Snuffbox (joined by Puffbox for last half mile). Mile and a quarter.—35; 1 13; 1 41 1/5; 2 24 2/5; 2 58.
 Wallaroo. Mile.—36; 1 10; 1 44; 2 17 2/5.
 Sonrise Dahlia. Three quarters.—32; 1 6; 1 41.
 Sonray Dahlia. Three quarters.—32; 1 6; 1 42.
 Kippaway. Mile and a half.—40; 1 18 2/5; 1 50; 2 31 2/5; 3 3 3/5.

SINN FEIN AND CONVENTION.

Mr. De Valera's "Bird in the Hand."

A Daily News correspondent writes:—The suggestion that the Prime Minister might visit Ireland and address the Convention has aroused much interest in Dublin. Observers who come in contact with men in all political camps hold strongly that not for many months past has the Irish situation been so favorable for a bold and generous settlement. It is obvious that the responsible Sinn Fein leaders have lately been taking stock of their position, and it is equally obvious that knowledge of the preparations which the Government have made, quietly and without ostentation, to meet any outbreak of disorder, has brought both the leaders and all sensible men of the rank and file sharply up against realities. The warnings of clerical advisers, and particularly the outspoken declaration of Cardinal Logue, have had a visibly steadying influence.

The effect of these diverse influences is seen in recent speeches. Mr. De Valera has now declared openly and explicitly that if the Convention does give the country a "bird in the hand" he is prepared to accept it as an instalment on account. The metaphor may be mixed, but the meaning is clear. The original Sinn Fein demand, ten years ago, was for the restitution of Grattan's Parliament, and all the signs indicate that Mr. De Valera's political education has brought him to the same position as Parnell when the latter declared: "We cannot, under the British Constitution, ask for more than the restitution of Grattan's Parliament, but no man has a right to fix the boundary of the march of a nation."

At this moment it might be in the power of either the Prime Minister or General Smuts to dissipate suspicion and distrust, and also to prove to Sinn Fein that the Convention was established, not to kill time, but with the sincere purpose of producing a settlement scheme acceptable to all parties in Ireland. My own impression is that if General Smuts came to Ireland not, as has been suggested, to displace the present Executive, but to use his unique experience and powers as a conciliator, his mission would succeed even better than the intervention of the Prime Minister.

TO-DAY'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

G. R.
PUBLIC WORK DEPARTMENT.
 IT IS HEREBY notified that sealed tenders in duplicate, which should be clearly marked "Tenders for the supply of Castings," will be received at the Colonial Secretary's Office until Noon of MONDAY, the 25th day of February, 1918, for the supply and delivery of Iron and Brass Castings, Manufactured Ironwork, etc., to the Public Works Department for about nine months ending on December 31st, 1918.
 Each Tenderer must produce with his tender a receipt that he has deposited in the Colonial Treasury the sum of \$500 (Dollars Five hundred) as a pledge of the bona fides of his tender, which sum shall be forfeited to the Crown should the Tenderer refuse or fail to carry out to the satisfaction of the Government, the whole or any portion of his tender which may be accepted. The deposit will be returned to any Tenderer whose tender is not accepted.
 The Government does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender, and shall be at liberty to accept any tender in whole or in part for any one or more of the articles offered.
 For form of tender and further particulars apply at this Office
W. CHATHAM,
 Director of Public Works,
 Hongkong, 5th February, 1918.

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POLICE RESERVE ORDERS.

Orders issued to-day by Mr. E. C. Jerkin, D.S.P. (R), state:—
 Band and Orchestra.

The Orchestra will play at the Theatre Royal on Saturday evening, February 23, on the occasion of the theatrical performance for the Mercantile Marine and Prisoners of War.

Members will attend a practice at 31, Wyndham Street at 6 p.m. on Monday, February 18.
 The Band Practice ordered for Tuesday, February 19, is cancelled.

HONGKONG DEFENCE CORPS.

Orders for Infantry Battalion by Major H. A. Morgan State:—
 Parade.—"B" Company: Reference Corps Order No. 10 dated 15.2.18. No. 7 Platoon will parade on the Polo Ground on Wednesday, 20th instant, at 5.30 p.m., instead of on the Hongkong residents will parade at the Cricket Club at 5.10 p.m. and proceed by tram to Causeway Bay.

Germans Banned.
 "No Germans or Austrians are permitted to enter this hotel." The above notice in hold type, is posted at the entrance to both the Astor House and Palace Hotels at Shanghai.

You be the Judge

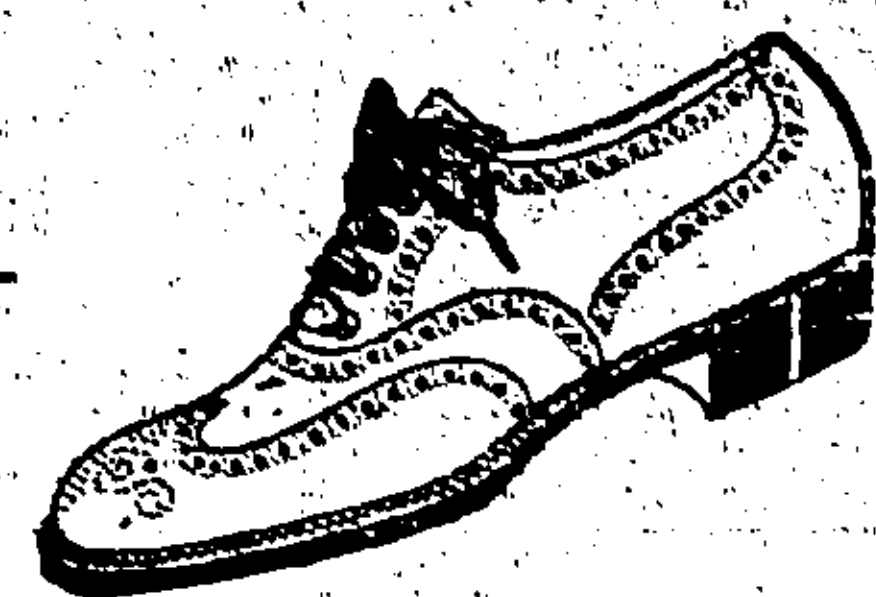
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Hongkong, 1st April, 1917.E. V. D. Parr,
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SHANGHAI, Kobe and Yokohama...	\$Iyo Maru Capt. Takano	T. 12,500 {WEDNES. 20th Feb., at 11 a.m.
SHANGHAI, Kobe and Yokohama...	\$Kikano Maru Capt. Cope	T. 16,000 {THURS. 7th Mar., at 11 a.m.
NAGASAKI, Kobe and Yokohama...	\$Sango Maru Capt. Akagawa	T. 13,500 {SATUR. 16th Feb., at 11 a.m.
Kobe	\$Tasho Maru Capt. Ogawa	T. 8,000 {SATURDAY, 16th Feb.
	\$Yedro Maru Capt. Kitamura	T. 8,000 {SATURDAY, 23rd Feb.

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For	Steamers.	To Sail
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SHANGHAI	Suiyang	26th Feb. at 3 p.m.

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Steamer	From	Expected on or about	Will leave on or about	For
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Tjikini	Amoy	28th Feb.	8th Mar.	Yokohama & Kobe
Tjikodas	Java, M'ear & Manila	2nd Mar.	11th Mar.	Amoy & S'hai
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Haitan... A. E. Hodgins... TUES. 26th Feb., at noon.

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SHANGHAI	Taisang	Tues., 19th Feb. at 4 light.
SANDAKAN	Mausang	Thurs., 21st Feb. at noon
MANILA	Loungsang	Fri., 22nd Feb. at 3 p.m.
MANILA	Yensang	Fri., 23rd Feb. at 3 p.m.

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Through Bills of Lading are issued to all Northern and Yangtze Ports.

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All European Passengers, leaving the Colony for Straits Settlement, are required to produce on arrival at destination passports with their Photographs and description affixed thereto.

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SHIPPING NEWS.

Liability for Loss of Ships.

An agreement has been concluded between the Government Department concerned and marine underwriters by which, subject to the approval of the shipowner, the apportionment of loss as between the war and marine risk policies shall, in the case of vessels which become missing, and are posted as missing at Lloyd's, be determined by arbitration. The agreement provides that the various authorities and parties interested in the war and marine insurances shall agree that the loss shall be divided between them in such proportions as seems just to the arbitrator. Not only are delay and expense involved in taking doubtful cases into Court, but the Court has itself been unable in some instances to come to an absolute decision. According to the agreement the award of the arbitrator shall be considered final and binding on all parties as to all questions of law and fact, unless the majority in value of one or other of the two sets of insurers, before the expiration either of six months after the conclusion of peace between Great Britain and the various Powers with which she is at war, or of six months after the making of the award, give notice of objection to the award to the other set of insurers. In that event the matter is again to be referred to one of the arbitrators to be selected by the Government, and at the hearing either set of insurers shall be able to add fresh evidence, subject to the permission of the arbitrator or to the imposition of such terms as he may think just. No application to vary an award shall be entertained by the arbitrator unless, in his opinion, material evidence is adduced which was not before the arbitrator on the occasion of the first award. In a letter to the Institute of London Underwriters, the Shipping Controller states that he has been engaged in prolonged negotiations with the Admiralty with a view to finding a procedure which would safeguard the rights of the parties and enable the scheme of arbitration to be put into operation. As a result, a clause has been agreed upon between the Departments concerned, respecting the disclosure of information by the Admiralty, which reads as follows:—(i) Subject to sub-clause (ii) of this clause, the fullest and most ample discovery and information shall be given promptly by all parties hereto (including the Government, who shall only be obliged to give such discovery and supply such information to the arbitrator), and all questions or disputes relating thereto, including any question or dispute as to the discovery of documents or the giving of information in the possession of the Government, shall be referred to and determined finally by the arbitrator aforesaid. (ii) The Admiralty will give the arbitrator all information in its possession bearing on the question whether the vessel was lost by war or marine peril. Provided always that, if the Admiralty are of opinion that the information regarding any particular ship is of such a nature that in the public interest the same cannot be disclosed, the Admiralty shall notify the arbitrator to that effect, and shall be relieved of any obligation to furnish such information to an arbitrator, and the decision shall be final, but the Admiralty will in such cases give the arbitrator such assistance as to furnish an opinion as to the cause of loss of the vessel as shall not in the opinion of the Admiralty be detrimental to public interests. It will be seen that if the Admiralty consider it necessary, on public grounds, to withhold information, they will notify the arbitrator to that effect. In that event, an obligation is assumed to render to the arbitrator every assistance which can be given, consistently with the public interest, in forming an opinion as to the cause of loss. It is anticipated that should disclosure be withheld in any case, it would be for the arbitrator to decide whether he could proceed to make an award or not, and that in most cases, at any rate, he would receive such assistance from the Admiralty as without going into details which it is not desired to disclose, would enable him to come to a decision. Underwriters have accepted this clause, and recognize the great assistance which has been given in the matter by the Board of Trade. The arrangement should enormously facilitate settlements in those cases where the loss is doubtful, and should be warmly welcomed by all shipowners and by merchants as owners of cargo.

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Hongkong, Sept. 24, 1917.

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REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

MORE V. C. HEROES.

Details of Some Gallant Exploits.
London, February 12.

Another series of heroic acts is gazetted in a list of twelve recipients of the Victoria Cross, of whom seven sacrificed their lives in the exploits. They include the following:—

The late Lieut.-Col. Neville Elliott-Cooper, of the Royal Fusiliers, who, learning that the enemy had broken through an out-post line and was advancing across the open, rushed out from his dug-out, mounted the parapet and dashed forward, calling on a reserve company and details of the Battalion at Headquarters to follow. Absolutely unarmed, he made a bee-line for the enemy and, leading our men, forced back the enemy six hundred yards. He was severely wounded when forty yards ahead.

The late Captain Walter Stone, Royal Fusiliers, though ordered to withdraw his company, and leave the rearguard, owing to an expected attack, remained when he realised the unexpected rapidity of the onslaught. He proceeded to telephone most valuable information under a tremendous bombardment and was seen fighting to the last when the rearguard was surrounded and cut to pieces.

Lieutenant Samuel Wallace, of the Field Artillery, when the personnel of the battery was reduced to five and surrounded, maintained fire by swinging trails bound close together, enabling his men to serve the guns, thereby rendering most valuable support to other troops. He was in action for eight hours.

Sergeant Cyril Gourley, of the Field Artillery, though closely beset, fired a gun at short range in full enemy view all day long and kept the enemy in check.

The late Private Walter Mills of the Manchester, despite the fact that he was badly gassed, continued to bomb his strong enemy patrol single-handed until the arrival of reinforcements. The enemy was sorely defeated owing to his exertions and the line retained intact. Mills died from gas-poisoning.

THE UKRAINE PEACE.

London, February 13.

According to Reuter's correspondent at Paris, the French Press, commenting on the Ukraine peace, emphasises that Germany courted trouble with Poland by allocating three Polish Provinces to the Ukrainians and consequently the Polish Army would still play a part in the struggle.

According to Reuter's correspondent at Amsterdam, a message from Vienna says that the Austrian Polish Party has broken off relations with the Vienna Government because the Ukraine peace assigned the Bohemian Government to Ukraine.

The Kaiser has resumed a tranquil tone as a result of the Ukraine peace. He has telegraphed to Count Hertling that the cordon of Germany's enemies has at length been broken by the victorious German armies. He has also telegraphed the Managing Director of the Norddeutsche Lloyd that the German sword has opened a door which must lead to a general peace.

The *Rheinisch-Westfälische Zeitung*, in a remarkable article, says that Germany's gains from Russia are too modest. Germany must have all Poland and White Russia. Moreover, Russia conceals enormous explosive forces which are bound to affect the German masses and endanger Monarchies. Therefore a reckoning with Great Britain remains inevitable. "Without the sea a cultured people cannot prosper."

ITALY'S DETERMINATION.

London, February 13.

Reuter's correspondent at Rome states that, speaking in the Chamber of Deputies, Signor Orlando emphasised Italy's inflexible determination to continue the war from motives of self-preservation and the attainment of national ideals. The deliberations at Versailles had inspired the fullest confidence. As far as could be humanly seen, there was one factor alone which must greatly improve the situation, and that was growing American assistance. The Versailles Conference had emphasised the necessity of close Allied cohesion on the Western Front concurrently with freedom of responsibility for each Allied Government. Such autonomous command was due to reasons of general utility and not the considerations of national amour propre.

NORWEGIAN SHIPPING LOSSES.

London, February 13.

Up to January 31, 714 Norwegian merchantmen, whose total tonnage is over a million tons, have been lost owing to the war. Eight hundred and eighty-three seamen have been drowned and 53 Norwegian ships, with crews totalling over 700, are posted as missing. About two-thirds of the latter are war losses.

THE RUSSO-GERMAN SITUATION.

London, February 13.

Reuter's correspondent at Amsterdam says that news from Berlin indicates that the population's joyful reception of Mr. Trotsky's anomalous Russo-German peace declaration is not shared by the press, which dwells on Germany's difficulties in future dealings with Russia.

PIANO RECITAL.

The Programme for Monday Night.

By kind permission of His Excellency the Governor, Mr. Denman Fuller will give a piano recital, which is open to the public, at Government House on Monday, at 9.15 p.m. The entire proceeds will be given intact to the Fund for Prisoners of War and the Ladies Emergency Committee of the Navy League. Mr. W. McQuade will be the violinist and Mrs. Black the accompanist. The following is the programme:—

- 1.—Polonaise Prelude ... Chopin.
- 2.—Allegro (Sonata 2) ... Sjoegren.
- 3.—De Profundis ... B. Gardner.
- 4.—Hunting Song ... E. Isaac.
- 5.—Rhapsody ... Arensky.
- 6.—Capriccio ... Brahms.
- 7.—Automne ... Chaminade.
- 8.—Sphinx ... O. Scott.
- 9.—West Wind ... Farjeon.
- 10.—Caprice ... Moszkowski.
- 11.—Swing Song ... E. Barnes.
- 12.—Conzonetta ... Ambrosio.
- 13.—Study ... Mr. W. McQuade.
- 14.—Dream of Love ... Lieht.
- 15.—La Campanella ...

THE SWATOW EARTHQUAKE.

Additional News of the Disaster.

Though much news is going round the Colony of the damage done in Swatow and the number of deaths which have occurred in consequence of the earthquake experienced in the port, only the most disjointed scraps of information are yet to be picked up. Letters have been received here and there, but all have been written under great stress, and, while they give a certain amount of information of an authentic nature, they do not describe fully all that has happened. The writers are mostly concerned to let their Hongkong friends know how they have fared, but, reading between the lines, one can plainly realise that the happenings have been most terrible and the damage will compare with the worst typhoons that have been experienced in China. Though we write more or less in the dark as to the true state of affairs, it is perfectly obvious that it will be many a long day before the town is able to resume its normal life. It is in absolute ruins, bodies are continually being discovered under the debris, injured persons are being dug out, and the hospitals are full to overflowing with patients, hundreds of them being terribly mangled. News has come through to the effect that several are missing arms and legs. It is one of the saddest happenings that has ever taken place in China. From all that can be gathered, no Europeans are among the victims and there is nothing to show that any have even been injured, though European, like the thousands of Chinese, dwellings have suffered more or less, though, of course, not quite to the same extent, as in most cases they are more substantially built. However, their structure was not nearly strong enough to withstand the severe shocks which strained them.

Apparently there has been considerable damage at other northern ports, Amoy, suffering slightly, but it would appear that the first reports received of Amoy being razed to the ground were incorrect, the news now received pointing to the fact that the damage done is only comparatively slight. A wire has been received in Hongkong, in reply to a message sent from here, that slight damage has been done at Taipei, in Formosa, but here again the news is of the most meagre description and we shall have to wait some days for other information to filter through before any authentic information can be given.

From Swatow there is ample news to show the seriousness of the visitation there. By far the most interesting letter on the subject is that received by the Asiatic Petroleum Company, which states that the main shock was felt at 2.10 p.m. on the 13th, but that there were many lesser tremors felt afterwards, the next biggest shock being felt at 4.20 a.m. on the 14th. The letter says that the earthquake was very severe and it caused extensive damage and loss of life. The houses on the Kakeho side do not appear to have suffered so very much, most damage being done to houses on the other side. The entire place, says the letter, is in ruins. Mr. Griffin says that he had just got outside the building when he saw the whole front of the Customs House cave in. People were running hither and thither in a state of panic, and there was indescribable confusion. At the time of writing, thousands of people were camping out in the open, afraid to enter their houses. Fortunately the weather was brilliant. One trembles to think of the situation had bad weather been prevailing. The position and discomfort would have been far more aggravated had rain descended. Mr. Griffin goes on to say that the Southern troops in the port have been carrying on a fine work. Besides helping considerably to relieve the suffering of the poor homeless people, they have made themselves responsible for the maintaining of some semblance of order. From this letter it appears that Chao Chow has also been affected, the railway line between Chao Chow and Swatow being broken, the trains only going part of the way.

ALLEGED COAL PROFITEERING.

Colliery Company Charged at Liverpool.

An important prosecution—the first of its kind—under the Price of Coal (Limitation) Act, 1915, was opened at Liverpool before Mr. Stuart Deacon, the stipendiary magistrate, when Mr. H. S. Higginbottom and the New Moss Colliery Company were summoned for selling coal at prices exceeding by more than the standard amount per ton the "corresponding prices" under the statute. There were in all 15 summonses.

Mr. Greaves Lord, who prosecuted for the Director of Public Prosecutions, said that Mr. Higginbottom was the controlling shareholder and director of the New Moss Colliery. The Act under which the informations were laid was passed to prevent profiteering in coal and the charging of outrageous prices. It provided that coal at the pit's mouth should not be sold or offered for sale at a price exceeding by more than the standard amount per ton the price of coal of the same description, sold in similar quantities, and under similar conditions affecting the sale, at the same mine on the corresponding date in the 12 months ended June 30, 1914.

It was further enacted that the standard amount should be 4s. It was important that it should be known to everyone in the trade that the Government took the view that the Act should be enforced with the utmost rigour. He was bound to say that, if the facts were proved, it was a case which should be regarded as appalling for the most penalties.

At the beginning of the year two members of the staff of the Coal Mines Department visited Liverpool, and as a result of their inquiries the present informations were issued. An arrangement had been come to between himself and Mr. Glover, who appeared for the defendants, that, after certain documents on which they (the prosecution) relied had been put in, the stipendiary should refer the question of prices to the Board of Trade. The first information concerned the offering for sale in September of 5,000 tons of screened gas coal to Messrs. Bennick, Wilton, and Co., of Torquay. The contract price on which that charge was based was 22s. 6d. a ton at the pit. The corresponding price was not more than 14s. 6d., so that the price ought not to have been greater than 18s. 6d. In the second case the contract was alleged to have been 7s. above the legal price, while in other cases the prices alleged to have been charged were 6s., 7s. 5s., and 3s. 9d. above the legal price.

Mr. Glover said that the point which would have to be decided was what was the corresponding price, and that question would have to be submitted to the Board of Trade. He was instructed that all the prices charged by his clients had been justified, and they were most desirous that the opinion of the Board on them should be obtained.

The stipendiary adjourned the case sine die, the question of the corresponding price to be referred to the Board of Trade.

An Appeal.

Mr. A. P. Stokes asks us to notify those who have goods to advertise, and who desire to benefit the Mercantile Marine in England and the Naval Prisoners of War, that advertisements to appear in the programme of the entertainment to take place at the Theatre Royal on Saturday next, will be very welcome. Those who wish to advertise are kindly asked to send form of advertisement to Mr. A. P. Stokes, Kingsplace, not later than Tuesday evening, accompanied by a cheque for £25 or as much more as the advertisers feel disposed to give.

There has been enormous damage to property in Swatow itself and a great loss of life among the Chinese, but so far as Mr. Griffin was aware at the time he wrote the letter, there is nothing known of any foreigner being killed or injured.

Persistent news states that a tidal wave at Amoy has done considerable damage but as yet, as in the case of many other reports, there has been no opportunity of verifying the rumours.

PRISONERS IN SWITZERLAND.

Instruction of our Soldiers.

A Red Cross correspondent of the *Times* writes:—When the Press of the belligerent countries writes of the profit which neutrals are making out of the war the Swiss shrug their shoulders and point to their hotels. Certainly when one walks out of the station at Lucerne and crosses the bridge the row of grand, shuttered piles is a melancholy spectacle. Some of the largest hotels in Lucerne were built only just before the war, and were hardly opened before they found their business at a standstill. One wonders whether they will ever open again, and tries to take comfort in the steamers, which are still plying on the lake. On the lake of Geneva they have stopped running for lack of coal, but on the lake of Lucerne they are a necessity, and will doubtless continue as long as Switzerland has any coal to spare for transport.

There is nothing gay about Lucerne except the German uniforms. They are of all colours and cuts and look admirably new. I suspect that an economical Government is using up material that dates from before the war. These blues and reds that give a touch of colour to the city would mean death in the trenches; so they are displayed at Lucerne, and it is a rare thing to see field-grey. Lucerne is one of the chief centres of the German interned, and palpably suits them. They hear their own language spoken around them; they are near their own frontier; they can easily send for their wives and children—on Sunday one saw them taking their families to church; Lucerne may not be gay, but it is gay than a camp surrounded by barbed wire, and they are content to stay in the tourists' shoes and promenade by the lake side in front of the deserted hotels. Not that they look back with resentment upon the land of their captivity. They showed that they did not by the way they saluted the British officer in whose company I was.

It is the rule in Switzerland that soldiers of all armies salute officers of all armies, and German discipline is well known. But from the manner of their salutation they did not appear to be performing an odious task.

There was humour in the situation. The British officer—one of those in charge of the British interned prisoners in Switzerland—was a conspicuous figure; nearer seven than six feet high, I should judge, and wearing the full uniform of a British Staff officer, since he was engaged on an official tour of inspection to the internment camps. "Is he a German?" civilians whispered to each other as we walked to our hotel. I do not know whether the German soldiers thought he was a German or not, but they were acutely conscious of his presence, and he was somewhat embarrassed by the shower of salutes. But he could not be embarrassed for long; the salutes were too frequent and came too much as a matter of course; and soon he was acknowledging them as mechanically as if he had been walking through some London street.

Seeburg, like Lucerne, has been empty since the beginning of the war. It is the property of Major Mitchell, and he had made it into one of the centres of the Polytechnic Touring Association of London. With the war the flow of tourists ceased, but here, as in England, the war has begun to fill the gaps it has made itself. Seeburg—under the auspices of Mrs. Mitchell, for Major Mitchell is at work in London—is to become a centre for the technical instruction of British prisoners of war, and when I visited it, on October 24, I found that the instructors sent out by the British Red Cross had just arrived.

To talk with them one would have imagined that they had come from some peaceful country, untouched by the war, into the very zone of devastation, so perturbed were they by the conditions of life which prevail in Switzerland to-day. I hardly know now their impressions will strike any Swiss to whom they may impart them. It is already

a sore point with the Swiss that there are bread cards here while there are none in England or France, and to hear Englishmen complain of Swiss bread will be hard for the Swiss to bear. It will not make them feel more kindly towards the blockade, with which the bread cards, in their minds, are so intimately connected. Yet it may serve as a powerful, because unpremeditated, demonstration of the extremely favourable economic position in which the Entente finds itself as compared with the Central Powers.

But the instructors were too busy with their work to trouble themselves deeply over the economic situation. Their first task is to go round the British camps—and these are at present scattered all over Switzerland—and pick their men. The men selected will be assembled at two centres—Seeburg for the carpentering, electrical, and watch-making courses, and Meiringen for tailoring and leather work. It is then that the difficulties of the instructors will begin. The difficulty of raw materials is not so great, for there is still timber, at any rate, in Switzerland, and the instructors in tailoring and leather work have brought out with them supplies of leather and cloth. The greater difficulty is that of tools and technique, for carpentering tools and electrical fittings are not made on the same pattern on the Continent as in England or America, and if the learner is instructed only in Continental methods he will be at a loss when he returns to England after the war and wishes to exercise his newly acquired craft. But the instructors are men of experience, and are taking these problems in hand.

For the moment their task is of a manageable size. There are only 700 British interned in Switzerland now, for about the same number were repatriated to England a few weeks ago, and no further batches from Germany have yet arrived. The French, with their 12,000 interned, have been able to do things on a larger scale. They have a commercial school at Vevey, large workshops in the Rhone Valley, and a thousand students in the Swiss universities—they have even supplied some temporary professors to Geneva and Neuchâtel.

The prisoners, of course, are not under French or British control. The direct command over them is vested in the Swiss military authorities, and the French and British bureaux which are established for their benefit at Berne hold their position by the courtesy of the Swiss. The discretion given to the Swiss authorities is in fact very great. The convention between the belligerents defines certain categories of prisoners which are entitled to internment in neutral territory. Switzerland decides how many she will take, and then sends for her doctors to examine the prisoners in each country and decide whether they belong to these categories or no. The final decision of this question lies with them, and when the prisoners they have assigned to these categories are transferred to Switzerland, the Swiss settle, again, which among them have the right to be repatriated to their respective homes. The discretion on this point, however, is limited by a clause in The Hague Convention, which provides that if the number of prisoners that can claim repatriation on either side differs by a margin of more than 20 per cent., the arrangement does not hold, and complicated negotiations have already arisen over this point. Fortunately, it appears that the question will be settled, as it is in the interest of both sides to settle it, in a liberal sense, and certainly this repatriation is one of those rare touches of humanity which relieve the suffering of the war.

Building Materials Committee.

The Minister of Reconstruction has appointed Mr. Olmsted B. Broad and Mr. W. J. Jones to be members of the Building Materials Supply Committee. Mr. Broad was a member of the firm of Dawson and Co. (Limited), of Battersea, and is a past president of the Olmsted Association. Mr. W. J. Jones is in charge of the Brick Section of the Iron and Steel Production Department of the Ministry of Munitions.

RURAL EDUCATION.

Mr. Fisher on the Needs of the Countryside.

Mr. H. A. L. Fisher, President of the Board of Education, addressed a meeting of members and friends of the General Association of Church School Managers and Teachers recently in Church House, Westminster. Lord Parmoor, chairman of the association, was in the chair.

Mr. Fisher said that our educational system depended on the co-operation of agencies differing in composition and various in their outlook from the Board of Education to the stern and watchful ratepayer. Our system made for variety of experiments and nice adjustment to the needs of a locality, though it might be accompanied by great differences in standard of efficiency. It was national, while it admitted the continued existence of denominational religious teaching. One of the consequences of the voluntary schools was the existence of a very large number of small schools, and the difficulty of obtaining good teachers, and since in small schools individual influence was greater than it was in large schools, a special responsibility for the selection of teachers rested on the managers. For these teachers there should be provided opportunities for further intellectual and social development. The capacity for imparting religious instruction and for making Biblical lessons interesting, was not with the young teacher. It came later in life, and opportunities for training should be provided. He had been struck by the absence in large towns of opportunities for this development. Another drawback in small rural schools was the difficulty of finding instructors in hand work in cooking, gardening, etc., and here the Bill that he had introduced offered some help. It imposed a duty on local authorities where they had hitherto been empowered and as only 400 had adopted the special instruction, there was room for improvement. A third drawback was the amount of educational in the teaching in small schools. This might be avoided by a system of grouping. Of course, there should be no interference with denominational interests. Small schools had compensating advantages. Teachers could exercise deeper and more continuous influence. There was a higher standard of knowledge in the man who came from Scotland into the Army—this was noticeable from the books they read in the hospitals—than among a similar class from England, and he attributed this to instruction given in schools by teachers who were imbued with the university spirit. Until we had men and women of this type, regarding elementary teaching as a noble vocation, we should not obtain the results obtained in Scotland. A personal great advantage in small schools was that managers and teachers could get a close knowledge of the children and could direct them towards pursuits which aptitude fitted them. The excellence of the best secondary schools in England—Winchester—was partly due to its being comparatively small, so that the headmaster could know all the boys. The atmosphere around rural schools was always favourable to educational progress. The children of our country were not all converted to the benefits of education; but he had been struck by the fact that a small number of enlightened devoted men and women could exercise enormous influence on education in a country, and that was an encouraging feature. The causes for leaving the villages were low wages, bad housing, insufficient social amusement, and want of opening for career. It must be realised that agriculture would become more scientific, and that machinery and technical progress would develop. There were to be any system of small ownership and corporation there must be increased knowledge among rural children. He would like to have among the children in rural lands some of the best of the modern education, and their work.

